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## Wendell T. Robie

Born: 1895 Died: 1984

*Under Robie's leadership, the Sierra Nevada's were opened up for skiing and travel. This area proved to be the finest for skiing in the country. Though still primitive, the Auburn Ski club and the Truckee Ski Club made a bid to hold the 1932 National Alpine Championships in the High Sierras and were awarded the races.*

Wendell Robie was a member of the Auburn Ski Club, Auburn, California, and a skisport builder. A lumberman by profession, Robie was a very enthusiastic backer of ski sport on all levels, particularly in the Far West. He was elected president of the California Ski Association, later named the Far West Ski Association, in 1931. Robie was also the first president of the Auburn Ski Club.

Robie and a group of supporters from the Far West Ski Association made a strong bid for the Far West to host the 1932 Olympic Games, but lack of organization within the group and vehement objections by environmentalists convinced the Olympic committee to choose Lake Placid over the Far West for the 1932 Winter Games.

In 1931, with Wendell Robie at the helm, the Sierra Nevada was finally opened up for skiing and travel. This proved to be the finest area for skiing in the United States.

Though the Sierras were still very primitive, Robie, the Auburn Ski Club, and the Truckee Ski Club made a bid for and were awarded the National Alpine Championships in 1932.

In 1938, Wendell Robie was elected vice president of the National Ski Association. Under his guidance, the Auburn Ski Club sponsored a ski jump during the Golden Gate International Exposition at Treasure Island, California, which was highly successful.

A backer of the Auburn Ski Club, Robie also sponsored the Western Skisport Museum at Boreal Ridge, California. He and fellow Hall of Fame member William Banks Berry of Reno were both responsible for the level of success the museum now enjoys.

Wendell Robie was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in Ishpeming, Michigan, in 1964.

